Setting up of Skill Development Fund

†1593. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to set up Skill Development Fund (SDF) or to formulate any such scheme, for increasing skill of labourers in various parts of the country and for increasing production, especially in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A proposal to set up 'Skill Development Fund' initiated by the Government for augmentation of training infrastructure facilities in the country could not be finalized as it was not encouraged by the stake holders.

However, following steps have been taken to upgrade the skill of workers in various parts of the country including the State of Orissa:

(i) 500 ITIs are being upgraded as Centres of Excellence;

(ii) A scheme namely 'Establishment of new ITIs in the North Eastern States, Sikkim, and J&K' is being implemented;

(iii) A scheme of testing and certification of skills of workers engaged in the informal sector has been started.

Violation of Labour Laws in IT sector

1594. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been any cases of violation of Labour Laws in the IT sector;

(b) whether it is a fact that workers in that sector are forced to work from 9-12 hours a day, and they are not paid for the excess hours; and

(c) if so, the details for the last three years, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The State Governments are the "appropriate Government" under the various labour laws and legally vested with the powers to deal with the enforcement of labour laws in information technology sector. Information Technology and information technology enabled services are covered under existing labour laws. Accordingly, State Governments have been requested to take appropriate action in getting the labour laws implementation reviewed expeditiously.

(c) The desired information is not centrally maintained.

Cases by Provident Commissioner's Office against employers

1595. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered by the Employees Provident Commissioner's Office against the employers for violation of various provisions of labour laws during 2005-06 and so far during 2006-07, year-wise and Zone-wise; and

(b) the number of such cases which have been pending in courts for over five years, as on 1st April, 2006, and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to expedite their disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) The details are given below:

Number of cases filed

	Under Section 14 of Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952		Under Section 406-409 of Indian Penal Code	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4	5
East Zone	899	445	69	19